

BRIEF PARAGRAPHS.—*"Multum in Parvo."*
—Ex-President Martin Van Buren died at Kinderhook, N. Y., yesterday morning, in the 81st year of his age.—A negro man has been arrested in Washington for going about killing and stabbing horses and cows.—The Washington and Georgetown railroad company expect to run their cars from the Capitol to the War Department early next week, and to run through to Georgetown about the 6th of August.—The statement that Gen. Hatch is held to answer for disobedience of orders, in failing to proceed to Gordonsville, is contradicted.—The provost guard in Washington have made another haul of stolen government goods.—The Washington Star cautions the public against the issues of the "Bullion Bank," which are about to be put in circulation.—Governor Curtin, of Pa., was authorized to have mustered into the U. S. service nine and twelve months volunteers.—An order has been issued by the provost marshal in Washington, to the effect that all the convalescent soldiers found in bar-rooms, gambling houses and other places of like immoral character, will be considered fit for service, and made to rejoin their regiments.—Gold, yesterday, in New York and Baltimore was 118½.—Bishop Sculo, of the Methodist Church, is paralyzed at Louisville.—Com. Porter, with his mortar boats, arrived at New Orleans from Vicksburg on the 14th.—The price of wood for fuel is declining in Baltimore, and there is a good supply in that city.—The Newton Academy, in Baltimore, has been destroyed by fire.—A man named Hall, charged with the murder of his own sister, in Missouri, has been seized by a mob and hung.—The iron railroad cars on some of the Northern railroads are said to be approved of, and that description of cars is likely to come into general use.—A fashionable "woman of the town," who drives through the parks of London, the "observed of all observers," is said just now to "set the fashion" in dress and equipage.—The general health of the cities and towns North and South, as far as reported, seems to be very good so far this season.—The Washington Star says that Gen. Halleck will relieve President Lincoln from duties in relation to war matters, with which the latter has no familiarity from personal experience.—It is said that Henry J. Raymond, principal editor of the N. Y. Times, is about to retire from that position.—Rev. Dr. Plumer, in a published letter, avows himself to be, as he has always been, a warm and decided Union man opposed to secession.—The keel of another U. S. iron-clad steamer was laid in New York on Monday.

There has been nothing of special interest transpiring at New Orleans, with the exception of the seizure of some three thousand uniforms, destined for the Confederate army, the regulation of the price of bread, and shipments of large cargoes of cotton, sugar and rosin.

The health of the city of New Orleans continues to improve, although the sickly season is approaching.

It is stated that there will be about 250,000 baskets of peaches to be shipped along the line of the Belvidere Delaware railroad, and as many more on the Millstone road.

The Board of Aldermen at Boston, on Monday afternoon, voted \$200,000 for the construction of an iron-clad Monitor for the harbor.

Lieut. Wm. G. Fitch, late of the Hartford City Guard, and now of the U. S. army, has come home on a furlough. He was sick in the hospital at Baltimore, and was kindly nursed by a Southern girl, whom he now brings back with him as his wife. He is in the 14th regiment, U. S. A. He was in the battles before Richmond, and his company came out with but seventeen men.

Five buildings at Hazardville, used for manufacturing powder, exploded yesterday afternoon, killing seven workmen and teamsters.

Two French men-of-war had arrived at Acapulco, and a body of Mexicans, under a Garibaldian officer, had erected a battery to attempt to sink them.

The National Intelligencer says: "\$800,000 of United States bonds, which formed a part of the school fund of Texas, and were deposited in the Treasury of that State, were not long since withdrawn and sent abroad to be sold.—As the government has claimed that the arms and other property of the United States, seized by Texas, will be regarded as a set-off against those bonds, and as therefore the U. States will not pay for them, foreign purchasers should be put on their guard, and public notice is given of the withdrawal of the government's liability for these bonds."

In accordance with an order issued by Gen. McClellan, the names of all officers who distinguished themselves in the recent battles before Richmond, have been reported to him, so that they may be promoted.

A Maine editor thus distinguishes between different sorts of patriotism: Some esteem it sweet to die for one's country; others regard it sweeter to live for one's country; and yet others hold it sweeter to live on one's country.

It is stated that Senator Simmons intends to present the sum of fifty thousand dollars to the families of the Rhode Island volunteers. This has been prompted, no doubt, by the noise made about a mercantile transaction which he endeavored to justify himself in before the Senate a short time since.

T. Snowden Thomas, late clerk to the House of Delegates of Maryland, has received an appointment of chaplain in the army, and been ordered to Philadelphia.

The Georgetown police, on Tuesday afternoon, found a lot of Government goods stored in a warehouse near the market in Georgetown, which were seized and delivered to the military authorities. The goods consisted of 32 knapsacks, 142 cartridge boxes, 154 cap boxes, 75 belt plates, and 45 bayonet scabbards.

James Ripley and Henry McCaffrey were arrested yesterday in Baltimore and sent to Fort McHenry. Ripley is charged with treasonable acts in procuring the sending of goods to the South. McCaffrey is charged with circulating music sheets, one of which is the Stonewall Jackson Quickstep.

A movement is on foot amongst many of the prominent citizens of Washington, to make arrangements for holding a war meeting, within the next two weeks, at the City Hall, to take steps towards raising more men and means to equip another regiment of volunteers for the District.

Isaac Rogers, of Ohio, has been appointed engineer in charge of the bureau of construction, and supervising architect.

From the James River.
HARRISON'S BAR, JAMES RIVER, VA.,
July 18, 1862.

The Federal army is pleasantly encamped on ridges of cultivated ground. The situation of the site makes it dry and healthy, while also enabling them to enjoy any breeze which is sent to temper the fervid heat. Neighboring forests refresh with their shade the soldiers, now in a great measure recovered from their exhaustion, while numerous springs of clear, cool water meet one of the greatest of camp wants. At the foot, by a declivity, runs a stream of considerable size, not by any means of limpid clearness, but still a natural bath for thousands, invaluable to the health of the army. The James river is also extensively used for bathing.

The soldiers, who, on their arrival here, were promised rest, and, at least, expected relaxation after the extraordinary dangers they had passed through, have nearly the whole time since had their energies taxed with labor in the trenches, as well as the performance of much picket duty. Trench labor in our immediate camp is now completed and the prospect is brighter. I have heard the soldiers say repeatedly—and it is an evidence of their temper—that they would rather risk their chances in a forward movement than thus to die by inches.

P. S.—All is quiet in camp yet. I hear, however, as I close, from one of our chiefs, that there must be a movement within five days. It may be the signal of the advance I have alluded to as possible along the banks of the river towards the Confederate capital.—*N. Y. Post.*

COURT NEWS.—Her Majesty, with the royal family and suite, were to arrive at Windsor Castle on the 22d ult., and on the following day take their departure for Scotland. The Court Journal says:

"The distribution of bridecake on the occasion of the marriage of the Princess Alice has been on the most liberal scale possible. All the royal personages present at the wedding had a whole cake sent to them, and whole cakes were sent to the Queen Maria Amelia and others of the French royal family who were not present. Every one else at the ceremony, and many others connected with the Court, had pieces of cake presented to them or forwarded to their residences, each piece weighing about 4 lbs. All these gifts were made without trenching upon the large cake made for the special use of Her Majesty herself and the royal family, and which will be personally distributed. There was also a cake for the Duke of Cambridge, one for the Duchess of Cambridge and Princess Mary, and one for the Duke de Nemours.

INCIDENT AT THE EXECUTIVE MANSION.—Some twenty-five persons were waiting in the hall of the Executive Mansion yesterday to see the President on business. One man, who had been admitted to an audience, remained half an hour or more. After he retired, the President came to his office door, and, glancing his eye quickly around, said: "I want to make a little speech. You all want to see me on business; it is a matter of no importance to me whether I spend my time with half a dozen or with the whole of you, but it is of importance to you. Therefore, when you come in, please don't stay long." The President bowed and retired amid the good humor of his audience, and subdued cries of "good, good." It would be well if visitors would take a hint from this incident. "Don't stay too long."—*Nat. Int.*

The Washington city correspondent of the Cincinnati Gazette says that the charges against General Mitchel will be dismissed as unworthy of consideration.

The 18th Virginia went into action with 325 men, of whom were killed, wounded and missing 203.